How to Reset the Password in Ubuntu?

written by sysadmin | 1 October 2025

I want to access the user on the Ubuntu server that has the privilege of root using the sudo command, but I forgot my user password.

Problem

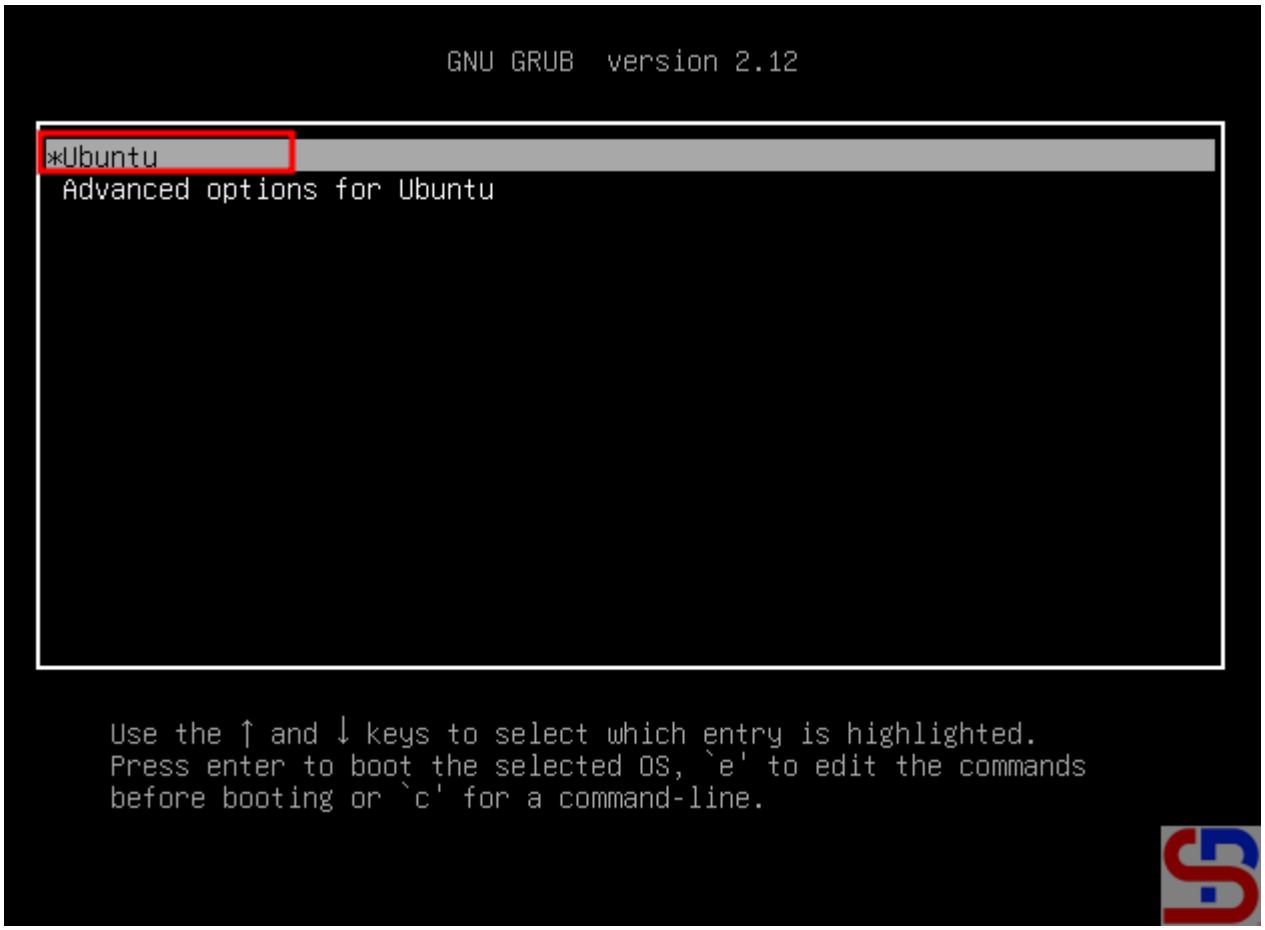
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Solution

Here are the steps to reset the password in Ubuntu:

1. Reboot the server

Reboot the server and press the **Esc** key or Shift key, and there should be a display like below:



Choose the Ubuntu

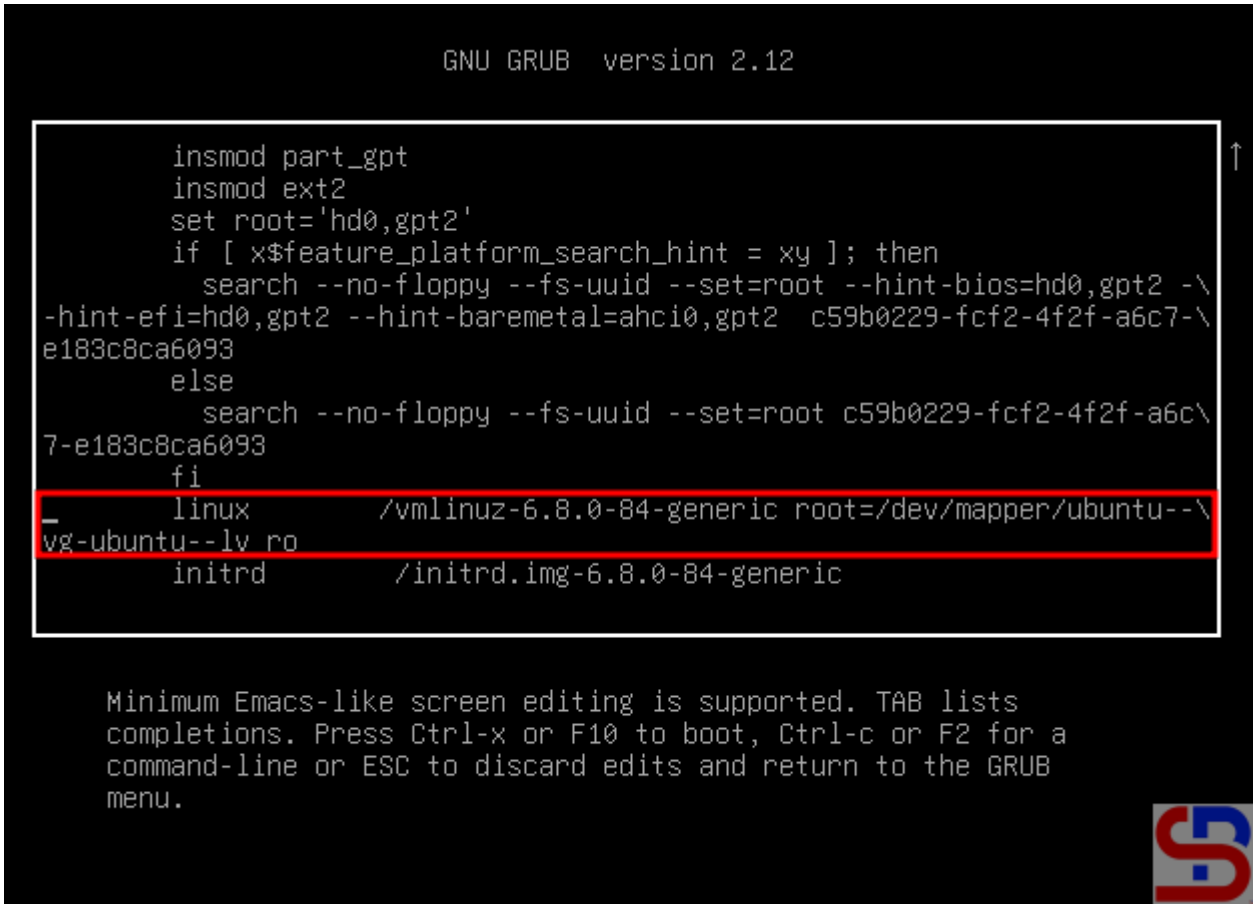
2. Click the first option

To enter recovery mode, select the top part of the image above and push the **e** button, so that there will be a display like the image below:



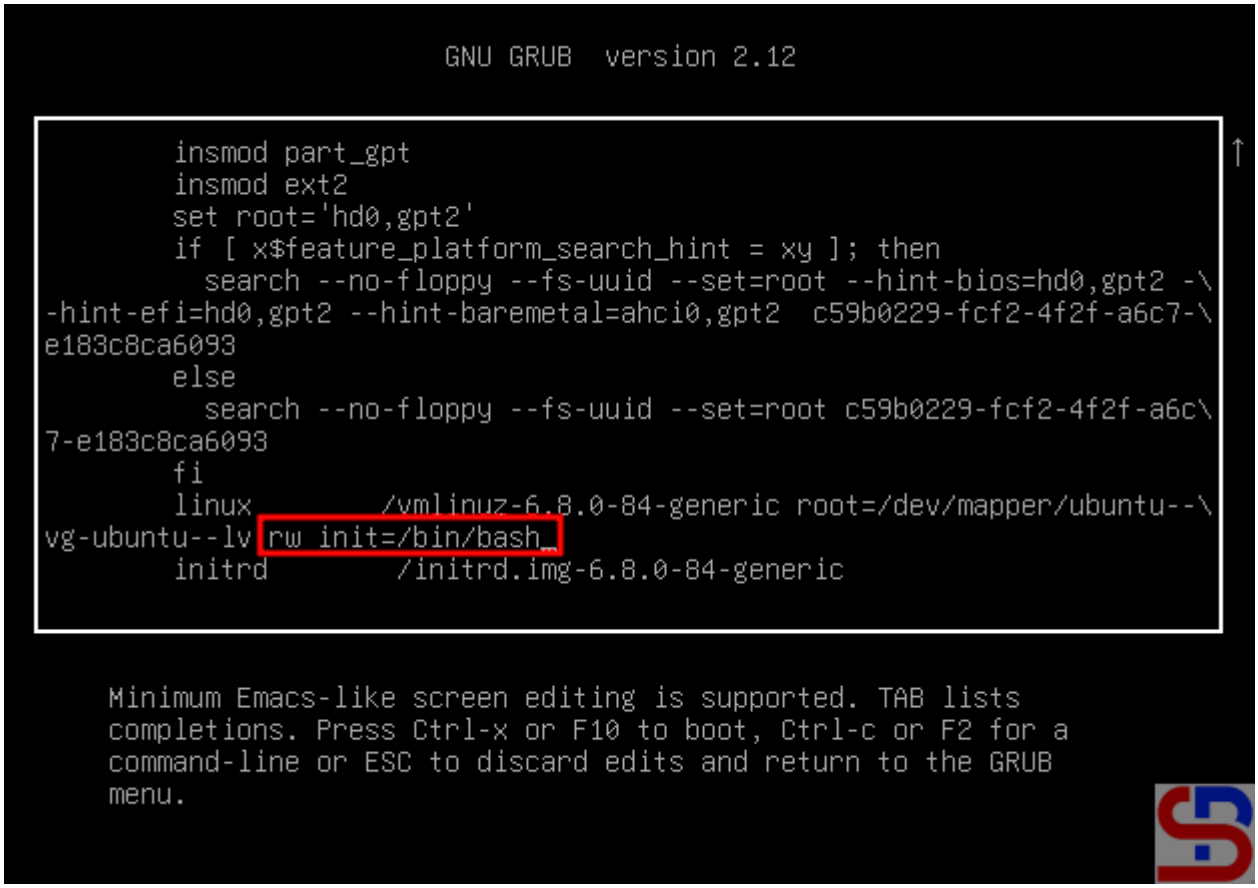
The GRUB options

Find the line starting with **linux**, similar to the picture below:



Find the line starting with linux

Remove everything from **ro** and append **rw init=/bin/bash** to the end of this line, like the picture below:



Change the script

After you change the script, press **F10** or **Ctrl+x** to boot these parameters.

3. Run the commands

In the recovery mode, run the command below:

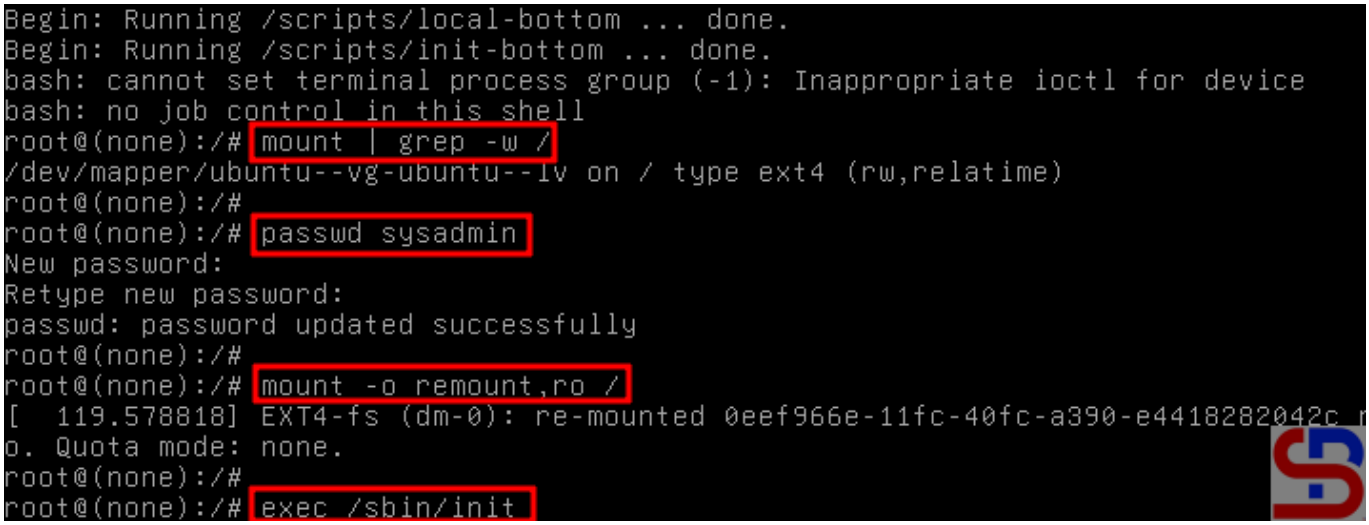
```
mount | grep -w /
```

After that, execute the command below to change the password:

```
passwd
```

After you change the password, run the commands below:

```
mount -o remount,ro /
exec /sbin/init
```



Run the commands

The Linux server will reboot, and after that, try to log in with the new password that you set before.

Note

By default, you cannot log in directly as root on Ubuntu, so you can’t change your password to root because to be root on Ubuntu, you only need to use your sudo command and enter your user password.

References

tecmint.com
askubuntu.com
infotechys.com